

STATE OF ALABAMA

Information Technology Standard

Standard 1210-00S2: Universal Accessibility

1. INTRODUCTION:

In response to the need to ensure equal access to electronic and information technologies, the State of Alabama has developed a set of standards for web page design. Just as environmental obstacles have inhibited individuals with disabilities, the Internet poses an entirely new set of obstacles. In recognition of those individuals with visual, physical or developmental disabilities, the State of Alabama has adopted a policy to make government information accessible to all.

2. OBJECTIVE:

The objective of this standard is to advise agencies on the use of the minimum requirements for online accessibility for all State of Alabama web sites that comply with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended for the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

3. SCOPE:

The scope of this standard applies to all State of Alabama web sites using the primary .gov domain name.

4. REQUIREMENTS:

- a. Every graphic image will have an "alt" tag and a short description that is intuitive to the user. If a graphic image is used as a navigation element, it will contain text description and direction that is intuitive to the user. Decorative graphics, such as bullets, will be set with an "alt" tag of <empty> as to not impede screen readers.
- b. For every graphic element that uses an image map, alternative text of the hyperlink will be provided.
- c. The site will have descriptive, intuitive text links and avoid the use of vague references such as "click," "here," "link," or "this."
- d. An alternative form of access will be made available for online forms, such as an email address or phone number.
- e. The use of frames will be avoided since they cannot be read intelligently by screen readers, create navigation problems and are not supported by all browsers.
- f. Multiple browser testing should be conducted on current versions of Firefox, Netscape Navigator, Internet Explorer, Safari and Lynx.

5. DEFINITIONS:

6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

6.1 POLICY

Information Technology Policy 1210-00: Web Development

6.2 RELATED DOCUMENTS

The Section 508 Web Site is an excellent source for general information, standards, evaluation, events, and resources surrounding Section 508, which will impact electronic and information technology on the Web.

<http://www.section508.gov/>

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended for the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 - The content of this document directly relates to the Federal government and any public or private industry contracting with the Federal government.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/508/508law.html>

Enforcing ADA compliance - The Department of Justice handles complaints and enforcement.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/enforce.htm>

Title II, Section 508 speaks directly to state, local governments and all other public entities. This highlights page provides a concise overview, abbreviated information on specific chapters that must comply with ADA standards and information about the complaint and enforcement process.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/t2hlt95.htm>

HTML and Accessibility Standards: Checklists

The Web Accessibility Checklist - From the W3C, this checklist covers all three priority levels of compliance and is much more in depth.

<http://www.w3.org/TR/WAI-WEBCONTENT/full-checklist.html>

The Web Page Accessibility Checklist from the Department of Justice

<http://www.section508.gov/>

The Software Accessibility Checklist from the Department of Justice

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/508/archive/oldsoftware.html>

The following "Quick Tips" introduce some key concepts of accessible Web design.

<http://www.w3.org/WAI/References/QuickTips/>

Signed by Eugene J. Akers, Ph.D., Assistant Director

Revision History

Version	Release Date	Comments
Original	09/25/2006	